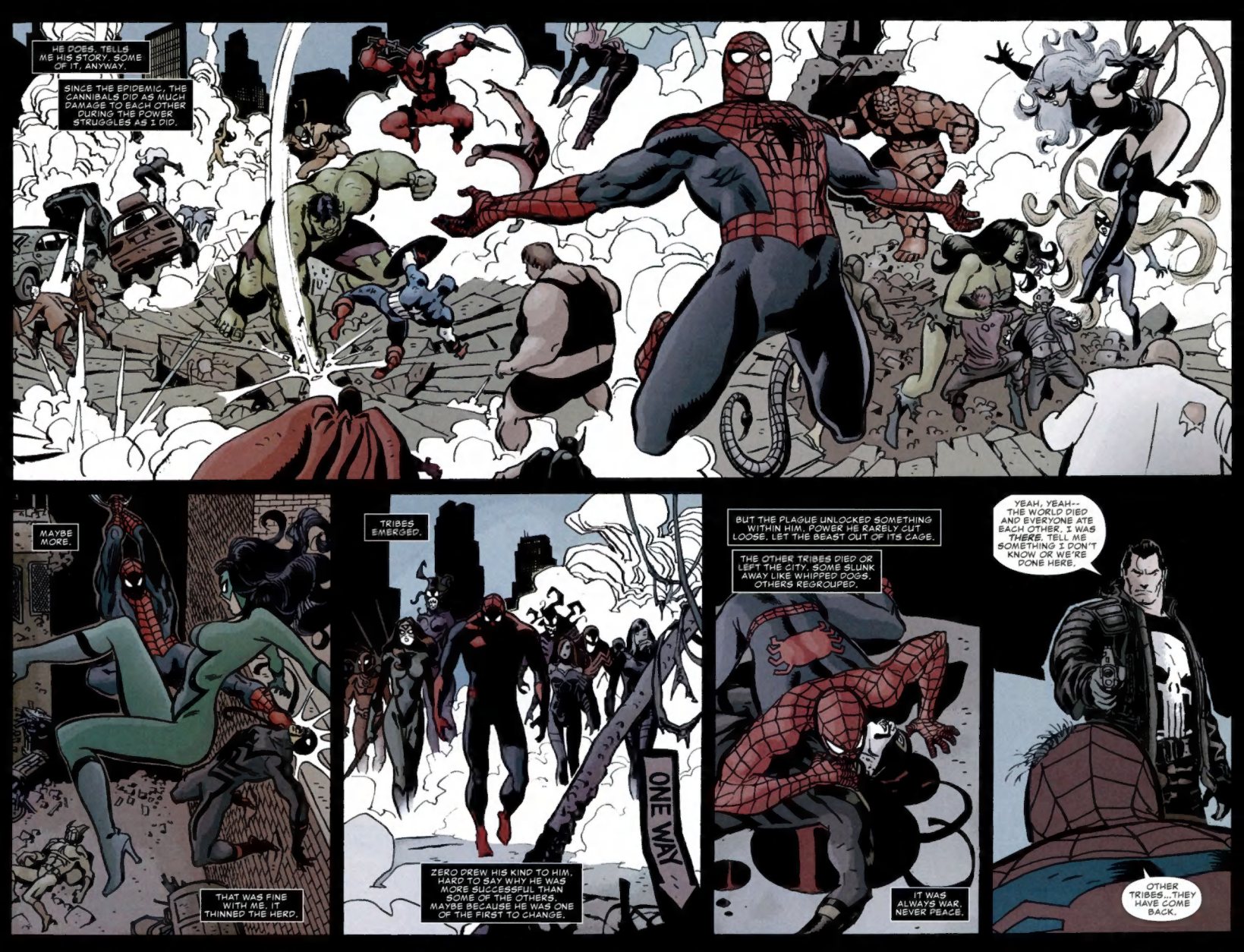
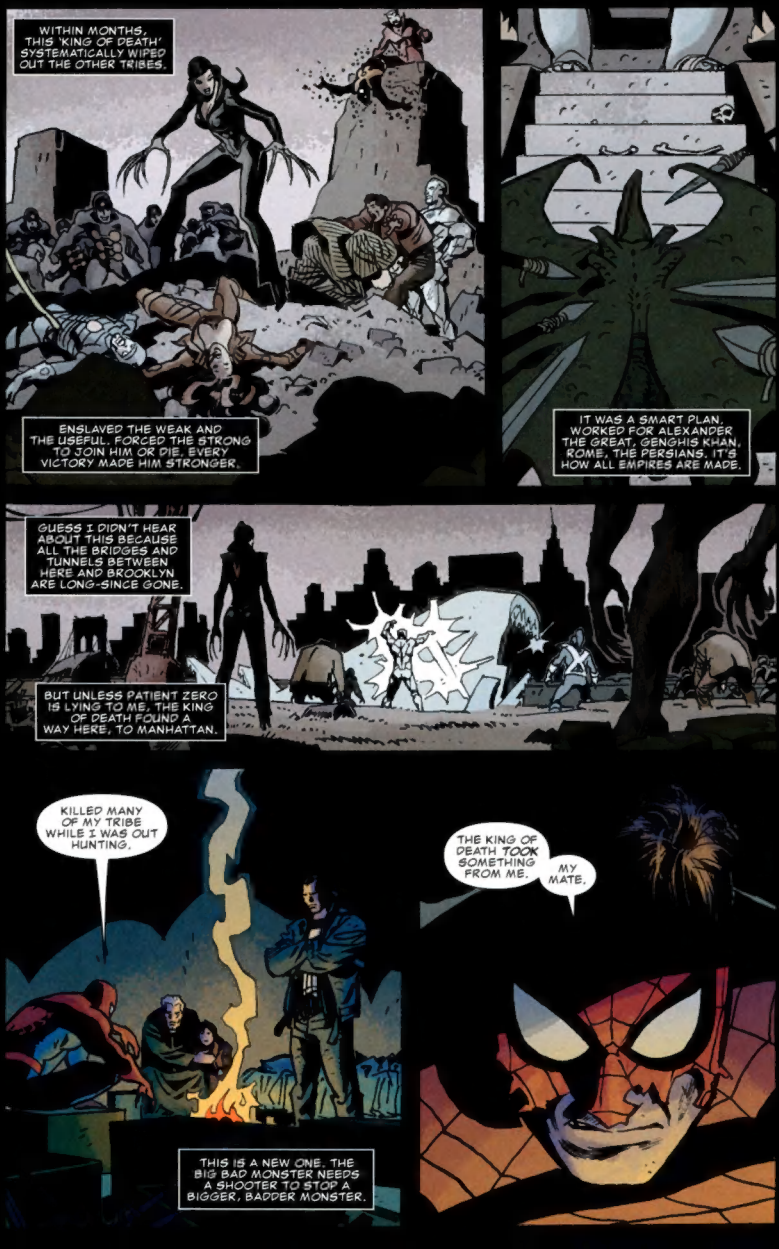

HE DOES. TELLS ME HIS STORY. SOME OF IT, ANYWAY.
SINCE THE EPIDEMIC, THE CANNIBALS DID AS MUCH DAMAGE TO EACH OTHER DURING THE POWER STRUGGLES AS I DID.
MAYBE MORE.
THAT WAS FINE WITH ME. IT THINNED THE HERD.
TRIBES EMERGED.
ONE WAY
ZERO DREW HIS KIND TO HIM. HARD TO SAY WHY HE WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN SOME OF THE OTHERS. MAYBE BECAUSE HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO CHANGE.
BUT THE PLAGUE UNLOCKED SOMETHING WITHIN HIM. POWER HE RARELY CUT LOOSE. LET THE BEAST OUT OF ITS CAGE.
THE OTHER TRIBES DIED OR LEFT THE CITY. SOME SLUNK AWAY LIKE WHIPPED DOGS. OTHERS REGROUPED.
IT WAS ALWAYS WAR. NEVER PEACE.
YEAH, YEAH-- THE WORLD DIED AND EVERYONE ATE EACH OTHER. I WAS THERE. TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW OR WE'RE DONE HERE.
OTHER TRIBES...THEY HAVE COME BACK.

PATIENT ZERO TELLS ME PART OF THE HISTORY THAT I DIDN'T KNOW.
TELLS ME ABOUT A HUGE BATTLE IN BROOKLYN DURING THE LAST DAYS BEFORE THE CITIES WENT DARK.
RED HULK'S ARMY, THE THING'S TRIBE, FIGHTING EACH OTHER AND WHAT WAS LEFT OF US, THE UNINFECTED.
CYCLONE

THE NATIONAL GUARD MADE A LAST STAND AGAINST A HORDE OF CANNIBALS IN CONEY ISLAND. THE FIGHT LASTED THREE DAYS.
U.S.
BUT IT WASN'T JUST RANDOM SLAUGHTER. SOMEONE WAS BEHIND THIS, TURNING DIALS ON THE TRIBES, USING THEM AGAINST EACH OTHER AND AGAINST US, THINNING THE HERDS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WAR.


WITHIN MONTHS, THIS 'KING OF DEATH' SYSTEMATICALLY WIPED OUT THE OTHER TRIBES.
ENSLAVED THE WEAK AND THE USEFUL. FORCED THE STRONG TO JOIN HIM OR DIE. EVERY VICTORY MADE HIM STRONGER.
IT WAS A SMART PLAN. WORKED FOR ALEXANDER THE GREAT, GENGHIS KHAN, ROME, THE PERSIANS. IT'S HOW ALL EMPIRES ARE MADE.
GUESS I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS BECAUSE ALL THE BRIDGES AND TUNNELS BETWEEN HERE AND BROOKLYN ARE LONG-SINCE GONE.
BUT UNLESS PATIENT ZERO IS LYING TO ME, THE KING OF DEATH FOUND A WAY HERE, TO MANHATTAN.
KILLED MANY OF MY TRIBE WHILE I WAS OUT HUNTING.
THIS IS A NEW ONE. THE BIG BAD MONSTER NEEDS A SHOOTER TO STOP A BIGGER, BADDER MONSTER.
THE KING OF DEATH TOOK SOMETHING FROM ME.
MY MATE.

ZERO SAID THAT THE KING OF DEATH HAD SET UP HIS LAIR IN A BUILDING NEAR GROUND ZERO.
NOT SURE IF THE KING CHOSE THE SPOT AS A STATEMENT OR JUST A WEIRD AND UGLY LUCK OF THE DRAW.
SUPPOSED TO BE TWENTY SURVIVORS HERE AND POSSIBLY PATIENT ZERO'S MATE. HE GAVE ME A DESCRIPTION OF HER. SHOULD BE EASY TO SPOT.
THERE SHE IS. ONLY REDHEAD IN THE BUNCH.
KILL, NOW!
WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY ARE DOWN THERE. A FRONTAL ASSAULT COULD GET US ALL KILLED, AND THAT INCLUDES YOUR QUEEN.

PART 3: PARTNER IN CRIME

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To be concluded...